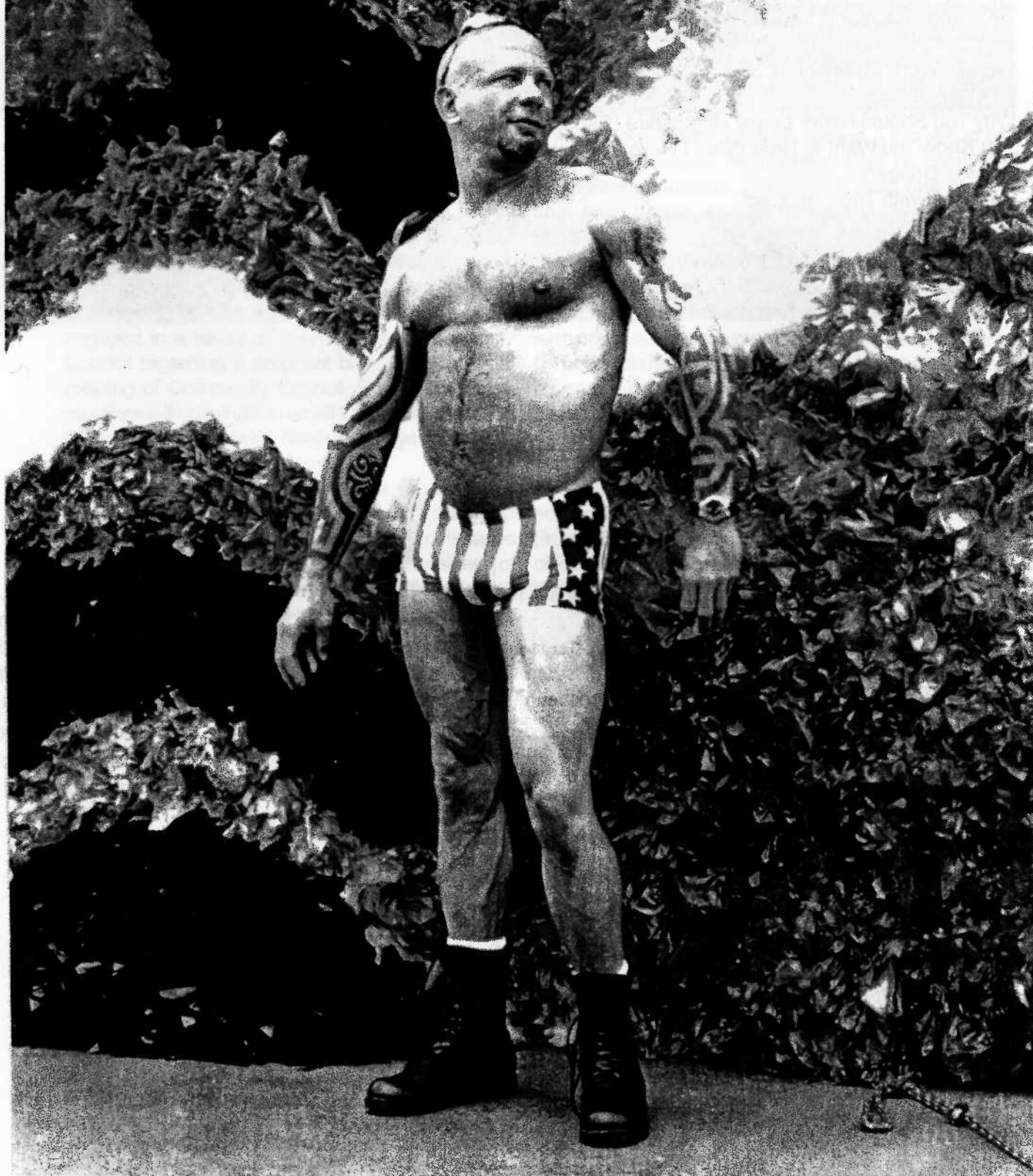


OMEN



The Omen September 26, 2003
Volume 21, Number 2



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layout & editing

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| Amy Grumbling | Iron Chef USA |
| Alli Hartley | American Psycho 2 |
| Lauren Mitchell | Star Trek: Generations |
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Views in the Omen (5)

Do not necessarily (7)

Reflect the staff's views (5)

Cover by Shalin Scupham
Back cover by: Michael Zole



Why don't prisoners
just masturbate?

They do... in the
asses of other prison-
ers.



Quotes attributed to Jeffrey Paternostro
and Justin Philpot

to submit

Submissions are due Saturdays before 5 p.m. You can submit by diskette (Mac or IBM) in rich text or plain text format, and typed hard copies will also be accepted, reluctantly. Label your disks well and they will get back to you. Get your stuff to Justin Philpot Enfield 48A, Box 1448, x5262. You may also use e-mail. Send e-mail submissions to jup97@hampshire.edu.

**And be sure to read our policy
box at the bottom of the next
page before submitting.**

Visit the Omen's very simple
website at omen.hampshire.edu

COMMUNITY COUNCIL: YOUR DE FACTO DICTATORSHIP

Editorial



by: Justin Philpot, Editor in Chief

The OMEN signers, our friends and acquaintances, the odd person walking down the street who we've screamed at from the passenger's side of a speeding automobile, have been talking as of late about the current state of "community" on campus. This is nothing new. I'm pretty sure I've written about it a couple times in this very forum. One of the things that has come up in our conversations as well as the revived Control Panels, is the necessity of informing incoming students about all of the options and in-betweens of life at Hampshire. There are third and fourth years who learn things about the school they're concentrating in that surprise the hell out of them. The same is true for the system of governance, which in the past couple of weeks has been an area of necessary focus for me. (The OMEN is actively engaged in a series of meetings with Community Council regarding a proposal brought to the final meeting of Community Council, Spring '03. These meetings will culminate in an All Community Meeting in the next few weeks. Keep your eyes open for notices and emails regarding this).

The current state of council is deplorable. I understand that they've just conducted elections, and by the time this runs there will be many new faces involved in the day-to-day taking care of business of Community Council. Many of these new faces will be first years, picking up the ins and outs of governance experientially. If any of the newly elected are reading this, I wish you the best of luck. Council is in dire need of new blood and as you begin your two-year term, I'd hope you would consider some of the following and endeavor to make council the body of student

power it should be.

The Numbers

The OMEN has had three scheduled meetings with Community Council in the past three weeks. The first meeting could not be held, as there weren't enough members present for quorum. It bears stating that quorum for that meeting would have been four members, as there were only seven on council at the time. Seven. There were four OMEN representatives in attendance. Under Article II, section A it is stated that "Community Council membership shall be composed of: Eighteen students including at least one student from each house, one off campus student, and one SOURCE (Students of Under-Represented Cultures and Ethnicities) representative." Of the seven council members that started the semester, (the house staff representative from Prescott, Michelle, has since completed her council term and is no longer a member), only six were students. I'm uncertain how many were at large members or house representatives. Council started the semester with just a third of its student representative seats filled.

In addition to the 18 student representatives, council should have as members, "Two members of the faculty, one member of the administration, two members of the administration staff, two members of the house unit (from different houses), one representative from the office of the Dean of Students (a non voting Ex Officio)." When I asked the current council chair who the faculty representatives to council were, I was told that it was unclear as to whether or not there were any.

The election procedure states in Article II, Section D, part 1 that "The seats for which an election is called include the houses, off-campus students, student-body-at-large, the faculty, the administrative staff, and

continued on page 5

policy

The *Omen* is Hampshire's longest-running bi-weekly publication, established by Stephanie Cole in December of 1992. In the past, submissions have included students' perspectives on the campus, administration, news, movie reviews, commentary, short fiction, satire, first born, artwork, comics, and the occasional embarrassing self-promotion. Everything the *Omen* receives, provided it is sent from a member of the Hampshire community, will be published unless it is deemed libelous or defamatory. Although we find such things amusing and entertaining for countless hours, it is just not an option in this forum. Libel will be considered clearly false or unsupportable writing that maliciously damages a person's reputation.

The *Omen* will not edit anything you write

(except spelling and grammar). You must sign your real name (no anonymous submissions) and understand that you are responsible for what you say. Nonetheless, views in the *Omen* do not necessarily represent the views of anyone, anywhere, living or dead.

There is no *Omen* staff, save those positions of editor-in-chief and layout editor. To qualify for community service you must be a consistent contributor and help regularly with layout. Layout times (and such) will be discussed at our meetings. Meetings are held every Tuesday after release of an issue in the Airport Lounge at 9PM. Everyone, everywhere, living or dead, should come.

The *Omen* loves you.



SECTION SPEAK

News, Commentary,
Announcements,
Propaganda,
Editorials.

THE HAPPENING STAR AWARD: COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

I'm probably the last person you would expect to get involved in politics. For starters, I am very skeptical that it really makes much difference who gets elected. You might think, for example, that had Gore been elected we wouldn't be involved with Iraq or the economy might be doing better, but because there are so many special interests and big business will have great influence over anyone who gets elected, I am not so sure this is the case. Furthermore, I am quite aware that my one vote, or my presence at a political rally or whatnot, is very unlikely to make a difference. Now, it is true that if everyone thought this way, the whole political process would break down. That's why I'm not telling you to think this way (at least not today). It's also true that if I were to organize a rally of my own, that perhaps could make a significant difference. But this leads back to my skepticism.

So, I was as surprised as anyone else when I suddenly decided to run for Community Council. It started as a joke, really, when a visitor to the Daily Jolt commented on the forum that he would vote for me if I were running. I acknowledged his support, but then again, who wouldn't want to vote for their local Jolt Demigod? Of course, I had no intention of running, so I decided to make fun of the situation in a comic. In fact, I made fun of Community Council in three consecutive comics (thus far), but by the time the second one came out, I had started to change my tune...

By Sunday (the 14th), running sounded like a fun idea... even though I wasn't sure why. I suppose

I felt it would be amusing to get elected on no more basis than running the Daily Jolt. And then, if I did get elected, that would be something I could add to my resume, without really having to do a whole lot of work. Community Council meetings were sure to give me more good comic material as well. (Yes, I'm aware I could go to meetings without being elected, but even so...)

But, I didn't know stuff like when the election was, or how to get on the ballot, and as I couldn't find this info on my own (Community Council's website no longer seems to work), I decided to dismiss the issue. Besides which, I don't like to act on my whims, but prefer to give things more consideration. But Sunday evening, when I received an email saying when the election was and how people could be added as write-in candidates, I figured why not? I asked a few questions, and by Monday I had officially declared my candidacy.

I thought I might have to scramble to get ready for the election... you know, get my name out there. But apparently, my opponents weren't taking the election very seriously, as I never saw a single poster. As a result, my own campaign was short as well. I made a post on the Jolt forum, then put my flyer in the news box, and on Thursday morning (just in time for the election) I put flyers all over Dakin. I figured Dakin's votes would be enough, so I didn't bother putting up flyers elsewhere.

In the end, my efforts were good enough to get me elected... but then again, nearly anything would have been enough to get me

by Joseph "Lemmy" Rosenbaum

continued from previous elected, as there was only one more candidate than seat on Community Council. The really sad part is, I got elected with a mere 31 votes. That's not 31 percent, that's 31 votes. That's something like two percent of the possible electorate. Granted, my being a write-in likely cut the number of votes I got, but even so, no one should get elected to anyone with two percent of the vote. (Five people voted against me, and they know who they are. They should feel very afraid lest I too come to know who they are.)

What earns this election the Happening Star Award is the ramifications of this vote, which, as I

see it, are twofold. The first is that you have elected someone who doesn't really know anything about Community Council. I have no idea what they're responsible for, and so far as I can tell, the only thing they've done in the past two years is make the laundry room free. Oh, and maybe they supported that student walkout last year. The other ramification is that, basically, I'm now free to vote however which way I like, regardless of what the student body thinks. This is because, on the one hand, so few people voted for me that it can hardly be said that I'm responsible to any constituency, as well as the fact that my term lasts two years, just long enough so that

I can graduate before re-election would become an issue.

So, thank you Hampshire for electing me to Community Council. I'd like to say you won't regret it, but who am I kidding? You probably will. I'll probably vote in ways that will make the college worse, so then I can make good comics about it. My source of information on all the issues will be the Jolt, and otherwise I really won't care. The next two years ought to be really interesting around here.

That is, if Community Council actually does have any power at all.



continued from page 3

the administration." This is further explained in part 2 which notes that "An election in this context is defined as a publicly announced nomination and ballot selection of members of a constituency by that constituency. Any member of a constituency has the right to nominate, be nominated, and vote in an election." Elections are held at the beginning of any semester in which there are vacant seats. As the term for faculty members, house staff and members of the administration is only one year instead of the otherwise standard two years, all of those seats were vacant at the beginning of the semester. And even if they were filled at the beginning of last spring semester, no other representatives in those categories, save Michelle, were present at the two consecutive meetings of council, a violation under Article II, Section C, part 1, ("The responsibilities of a member of Community Council consist of: Regular attendance, defined as never missing two consecutive meetings..."). So unless these unknown members are reinstated

by council (reinstatement of a student representative for the same violation occurred at the third meeting the OMEN attended. Had he not been reinstated, there would have been five voting members of council, making quorum 3.), the faculty, administration and house staffs have a total of five voting council seats vacant and open for election. The same is true for the two two-year administration seats. It is unclear whether these elections have taken place. By the time you read this, my hope is that some of these positions are filled.

There were five advertised at-large nominees for student representative seats, one Merrill nominee and one Greenwich nominee. As I understand the election process, unless there were write-in candidates that received more votes for any of those positions, they all won. The Merrill and Greenwich nominees because they ran uncontested, and the five at-large nominees because there were more vacant seats than people running. With twelve open seats and seven guaranteed winners, that still leaves

five up for grabs to write-ins. Again, we'll all know better how things actually look by the time this is being read. If those seats aren't filled, and the faculty seats, administration seats and house office seats aren't filled either, that still leaves council operating at just above half strength with 12 open seats.

As a community we should be asking ourselves if this is really acceptable. On the other hand, we can hardly blame council for "not doing anything" when there are hardly enough people at any given meeting to decide on whether or not to start talking. This is not how business should be conducted, period. With so many of the candidates being first years and with most of them guaranteed a voice, I have faith that they'll recognize that business-as-usual has most definitely been unusual. Leaving the community in the hands of so few, even if those hands are well meaning, can only lead to the narrowest of views on every issue. Being narrow is not a Hampshire tradition.



FREE SPEECH FOR THE DUMB

by: Jon Wible

Walking into the unisex bathroom on the third floor of the library for the first time this semester I was pleased to see phys. plant had yet to paint over the memories and arguments of the previous year. Then, scanning the wall I came across a favorite of mine. "THE OMEN:" it reads, "FREE SPEECH FOR THE DUMB". This, at first, made me angry, the Omen is a beautiful and unique thing, despite the sometimes-unpleasant things that are printed herein and should be – after all we're a free carrier. I will note that the irony of someone printing such a message on what is the epitome of a free carrier, the bathroom wall, was not lost on me. It didn't occur to me until later however how funny the message actually was. Upon reflection I realized, unintentionally (I can only assume, as the people who are

enemies of the Omen I can not imagine having anything larger than pea sized brains or vocabulary) the author had given us a compliment and a flattering one at that. In fact, I think it should be our new tag line. The original definition of the word "dumb" as you may recall is "lacking the power of speech." And that is what we are, and in many ways what we strive to be.

We are a publication that speaks what others cannot, or will not speak. We speak for those who lack the money or the know-how to distribute their ideas, to engage the community, to ask questions, to yell slogans, to complain about Saga. Those who are against the Omen see themselves pitted against an institution, pitted against a staff of writers, an office. The Omen however doesn't have a (stable) staff, or an office, the

Omen is little more than a name and a printing budget. What they are really against is the freedom of speech. They are against what some people think, and what some people choose to say. The Omen is nothing more and nothing less than what this campus makes of it. What YOU make of it. If the writing is bad it is because some people can't write good. If it is immature, it is because we on this campus don't take too much to heart. And if there is something here that you find offensive, derogatory, sick, twisted or otherwise, it is because people produce these ideas are living here. Destroying the Omen would not change their minds, it would not help them, and it would not make them any less dangerous. It would simply help make them dumb.



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER:

SERIOUS & AWESOME FOR THE USA

-Paris Hilton abducted by unborn daughter using nose job and giant not-robot lower body. She is okay.
-Bill Lambeer reappears! NBA welcomes him in his new format: Donning the largest mask in the history of masks—a full body see through Teflon mask. He is scary and is closing down all commercial sectors of major US cities on his NBA Read-A-Book tour.
-Frat guys ask- is it Bruce Willis? He is constantly spotted in disguise.
-Bush raises at least 100 dollars

NEWSFUCKER



at bake sale awareness bake sale. Profits go towards Bushface character (major role) in next Tony Hawk game. Hawk reportedly unhappy but willing to "give it a shot."
-Check out new Castro Deathtucker/Naked Castro at his website: www.handsomecastroparty.com.
AUTOFUN
Try feeding plants meat. What if they survive?
Also: Who is your favorite landmark?

by: Daniel Lopatin & Shaun Trojillo



by: Rebecca Costello

A proposal has recently been under discussion by faculty and school meetings about limiting individual professors' membership on Div II and II committees. I spoke with Aaron Berman, Dean of Faculty, and Steve Weisler, Dean of Academic Development, about this proposal last week.

According to the two deans, the idea behind the proposal is to address an "extreme workload issue" faced by some faculty by limiting the number of Div II and Div III committees they can be on. Their limits would be 5/5/5/5 – they could chair a maximum of 5 Div IIIs, be a member on a maximum of 5 Div IIIs, and the same for Div IIs. Berman pointed out that "above this amount is really too much to ask from someone". For faculty to go over the limit in any area, they would have to make an appeal to the Dean of Faculty.

To see if this would be feasible, an analysis was done using data from the past three years to see what would have happened if the cap had been in place. In most cases, when students encountered faculty with a cap, there were multiple other people who would have been available for them to work with; if people had to move, in other words, there were places for them to go. For the question of whether people would have wanted to move, Weisler posed the question of whether it was better to have "a little bit of

SOMETHING SERIOUS

someone you like a lot, or a lot of someone you don't get along with as well".

They discovered "only one or two situations" where there would have been a more insurmountable problem, and looked at what they could do to remedy those problems. In one case the policy of new hires not being able to chair in their first

year would have been an issue. As a result that policy is being changed.

In other cases, there

were areas where the backup could have been foreseen and hiring could have been done with that in mind. Weisler explained that when a professor goes on leave, schools would replace them with people they chose (for a variety of reasons), and that in the future hiring could be done with an eye to what was needed for high-demand areas. This could also have the side benefit of increasing classes offered in those same high-demand areas. How high-demand areas could be foreseen was still not clear; Div IIIs can be predicted to some extent by looking at Div IIs, but how to predict Div II demand was, Weisler said, an "interesting question".

While there's a general perception that faculty who have a high workload are all in areas where an application process

already exists (theater, film/video, creative writing, etc.) Looking over the past three years, at least one faculty member from each school would have hit the cap if it had been in place.

Berman said this proposal was one step taken to try to address workload issues, although it's only a small step

as most faculty chair "significantly fewer" than five; more like two or three. Over the past 3 years, an extremely small number of students and faculty would have been affected; 1-2% of students (15 to 17) per year and 10% of faculty (10-12) per year, at both Div II and Div III levels combined. He hopes that this system would address the workload issue while preserving the "negotiated nature" of committees.

While there have been rumors about a unified filing day for Div II and Div III, Berman said that this was not entirely accurate. Instead, students would be able to file their contracts at any time, but there would be some kind of process wherein faculty "finalized" their commitments at certain periods during the year. This would mean faculty could wait to see how many people wanted to work with them before they

continued on page 11



DEATH BECOMES ALL OVER HER!

WORLD'S WORST YO MAMA JOKES IV

BONUS FOR HARRY POTTER FANS!

Yo mama used to be a Death-Eater... now she eats MY DICK!

Yo mama is fair and balanced... ON MY DICK!

Yo mama has more discharges than the army.

Yo mama has an accent and she talk-a like-a this.

Yo mama loves the Atkins diet 'cause she doesn't feel deprived... of MY DICK!!

Yo mama's adopted.

Yo mama underwear got my dick-holes in it.

Yo mama got ball-calluses on her chin.

According to the Surgeon General, consumption of yo mama impairs my ability to drive a car or operate machinery.

Yo mama says I taste like Karl Rove.

Yo mama studying for her masters... ON MY DICK! Ow!

Yo mama is my sister. Gotta keep it in the family, son.

Yo mama has a drawstring vagina.

Yo mama's good times.

Yo mama suffers from erectile dysfunction

Yo mama has aides. They're incompetent, though.

Yo mama can't believe she ate the whole.... MY DICK!

If a tree falls in the forest, it probably fell on yo mama.

Yo mama gets hit by trees and shit.

Yo mama couldn't fight her way out of a wet paper bag or the small, soundproof durgeon I built below my house.



by: Karl Motherfucking Moore

Redsneakers Journalism

GEEKS ARE ZOMBIES

by: Jesse Frola

Grape soda IS tasty, no matter what the hell you people think. It has a purple coloration that separates it from lesser, mortal sodas cannot hope to approach. The beauteous scent of grape tops over all carbonated beverages, instead of vile syrupy pepsi-coke hybrids. I never really understood the obsession with cola most people seem to possess. In fact, I'd like to dicuss one soda in particular which i have never discovered a taste for. That Moxie crap.

My hall in particular guzzles this crap like it's the nectar of the gods; they guard it jealously from any who might sample their favored flavors. It's a stupid thing to do...Moxie is only Pepsi with more seltzer water. I could make my own Moxie in the SAGA if I wanted to.

Speaking of home-brewed SAGA beverages, did you know that we carry Mountain Dew Livewire? It takes some work, but it's easy enough...you just fill up half a cup with regular Mountain Dew, and the other half with the orange soda on tap in the room with the newly-improved sandwich bar. It's a secret recipe. Don't tell anyone. Oh, incidentally, you can make Mountain Dew Code Red by combining Mountain Dew with Hawaiian Punch. Yum. Also try Hawaiian Pepper (also known in certain circles as Dr Punch). To preserve the Mystery, I'll not tell you how to make it. I'm sure you can figure it out all by yourself.

Also of edible note in the dining hall is the wok. Well, not the wok itself, but rather what you can make in it. It may seem that the only option for the wok is vegetable stir-fry, but that's not entirely accurate. Adding rice (commonly available in the actual food line) as well as pasta (various pastas available in the pasta bar) can turn regular boring vegan stir-fry into something that is no less vegan, I think, but certainly more edible.

But back to the debate of Moxie and Grape soda, and the title of this issue's article.

The other day, I desired a grape soda. Our lounge was in use, however, by friends of mine playing some game. This is no surprise; I live on a hall where Smash Brothers and SoulCalibur are common public diversions. Knocking on the lounge, I am greeted by a voice far removed from those of my friends. "What do you want?" they asked. Meekly replying that I wished a Grape Soda (capitalized because it tastes good), I was allowed entry. Upon said entry, however, I was greeted by faces of men and women I had once known, but staring through soulless eyes. Not saying a word, they watched as I passed by them, opened the refrigerator, ignored the Moxie, and took my Grape soda. I'm pretty sure they would have attacked had I touched the Moxie. I left, not a moment too soon, and the door slammed violently behind me.

These people were my friends; I know them, and they

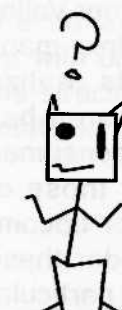
are not the soulless zombies I saw that fateful day. I am frightened for their afterlife...surely such dark habits will net them eternal torment. It seems I must undertake a quest now; a hopeless quest, not unlike that of Don Quixote de la Mancha, to rid the world of Moxie and the zombies it creates.

There better not be Moxie at Deathfest, or the world may be doomed. Drink Grape soda, and be blessed; stray from the path, and you shall surely be doomed.



by: Kyle Stimbekch

The Article Goblins. . .



wonder why kyle wanted his comic to be 1/8!"

WHY YOU SHOULD NEVER LEAVE HAMPSHIRE (ESPECIALLY IN THE SUMMER)

Why You Should Never Leave Hampshire (especially in the summer)

I realize that the first issue of The Omen is the right place for a recap of my summer, and that most of us have reached the point in the semester where we no longer remember what vacation feels like. So think of this article as advice for future summer vacations.

This summer I barely managed to get away from Hampshire. I did sleep off campus, but since I was living with Hampshire alums my apartment felt like a very small three person mod. When I wasn't sleeping, I spent most of my time in ASH. So why would I ever want to stay in the Valley when I could

have easily returned home and forgotten about Hampshire for three months? For one, I live in Hartford, which is a

wonderful reason to be anywhere but home. But more importantly, the Pioneer Valley rocks. I don't think many Hampshire students realize just how much this area has to offer to those not consumed by college. So for those of you without plans for upcoming summers, consider these reasons (listed in no particular

order) to stay right here.

1. *JOB*S. Here's an interesting fact. None of my friends at home could find summer jobs. Most of my Hampshire friends who stayed here were employed by Hampshire. You can work at Admissions, Advising, Phys. Plant, various camps, or for professors. The salary's not much above minimum wage, but it's better than nothing.

2. *The Public Library*. Amherst has a kickass public library, complete with a huge fiction collection (both trashy and non-trashy), tons of non-academic magazines, and a very fun children's section. I reread all my favorite childhood books one day while waiting out a thunderstorm. The library also has comfortable

My personal favorite was the math camp, because they were stationed alongside me in ASH, and brought with them boxes of free fruit and lots of yellow pig decorations.

3. *No Students*. There are some students around, but not the identically dressed herds you see stampeding around Amherst during the school year. Instead, you get streets overrun with little kids, which is much cuter. Because of this...

4. *People Are Nicer To You*. Restaurant and shop employ-

ees are much more tolerant of students over the summer, probably because they don't have to deal with the aforementioned herds on a daily basis. Also, I think people around here see college students the same way that beach town residents see tourists. If you're here during the summer, you're considered a local.

5. *Getting To Know Your Fellow Hampshire Students*. A surprising amount of Hampshire students and recent graduates lived here this summer. Through the hard work and tenacity of my very skilled friend, most of us got together for potlucks every month. And when there's less than fifty of you, you're forced to move outside your usual social circles. As a result, I got to know a lot of wonderful people I might not have met otherwise.

6. *Summer Camps*. If you work on campus over the summer, you get to witness the parade of camps which rent out the dorms and mods. Every day as I biked towards the library, I checked the patch of signs announcing the arrival of new camps. We had physics camp, basketball camp, soccer camp, super camp, frisbee camp, math camp, a body-mind centering program, a world peace summit, several karate reunion. My personal favorite was the math camp, because they were stationed alongside me in ASH, and brought with them boxes of free fruit and lots

continued from previous of yellow pig decorations.

7. *Fourth of July*. You haven't celebrated Independence Day until you've attended the Amherst parade. It consists of every fire truck in the area, all sounding their sirens, and floats of local businesses that you wouldn't really expect to have floats - like the lumber company, which was displaying several large logs. Atkins distributed free apples, and the Dakin animal shelter walked their dogs. There were also representatives from the ACLU and the League of Women Voters, both of whom looked shocked at how loudly the cluster of Hampshire students cheered for them. Also, UMass has great fireworks.

8. *Fun Stories About Cheap Housing*. The Pioneer Valley is affordable to those of us on student budgets. You might not necessarily get the classiest home, but you're guaranteed an adventure. My apartment complex was a cluster of very flat buildings, whose roofs inexplicably came down to about five feet off the ground. I'm guessing they were meant to emulate big shingled rocks, since there is no other justification for naming the place The Boulders. During my time there I experienced loud angry neighbors, tire slashings, and a policeman banging on the door at 3:00 am telling us the building was on fire. Fortunately, my apartment was friendly and fun enough to make up for all

this. And now I appreciate the mods, Public Safety, and Phys Plant more than ever before.

9. *Learning to Play Frisbee*. OK, so this probably doesn't apply to anyone but me. However, since I thought I had been permanently scarred by gym class, it was a big accomplishment. My real point here, however, is that the Valley is full of great opportunities you will never get to during the school year. Without schoolwork, I had the time to go contra dancing, take a second tae kwon do class, learn to knit from one of many accomplished Hampshire knitters, and practice the violin. I didn't learn how to drive - maybe next summer.



continued from page 7

SOMETHING SERIOUS...

made their final commitments. Weisler added that this would serve to synchronize "idiosyncratic" application processes that exist in film/video, photo, writing, and theater; they could all have unified deadlines and decision dates that coincided with faculty in other areas making their final commitments. However, this entire process is still somewhat unclear, as they haven't worked out all the details. Weisler acknowledged that people trying to file during the earliest possible time to get the chairs that they want could be a problem.

While many students worry that it will be more difficult to work with the faculty member of their choice, Berman felt it might be easier, since faculty can wait until those speci-

fied periods, take stock of the people who want to work with them, and then choose the people they feel they want to work with the most. The current system often means that faculty have to turn away people who are closely matched with their interests because they've already committed to so many people who are less matched with their interests. This system will also be accompanied by Hub listings - actually already up - that will list all faculty who are not yet over the limit, and may be fine-tuned to return names of faculty in particular areas of interest. This could help students find faculty they may not have worked with before but who may be well-matched.

While most students haven't

heard about this plan, or at least not in detail, Weisler urged "creative thinking" about how to deal with scarce resources. Basically, he argued, there aren't enough professors to meet demand in certain areas. Simply hiring more faculty, he said, is not a possibility in the short-term and difficult to do in the long-term. So you can deny some people the option to study in high-demand areas; find committee members who aren't as closely related to the concentration; or come up with other ways to "rethink the structure of the committee relationship."





YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY

by James Potter

Well, here we are, another year ahead of us, and back to all of the bees, flies, stink bugs, and fat squirrels that outnumber the students, back to endless meetings with professors, pretentious classmates, and even more pretentious partygoers. Ah, college. So, to go with the theme of things, the ratings system this time is going to be based on the many wondrous experiences that one has while at college. And just in case you forgot, or in case you never knew, 0 means that it doesn't suck at all, and 5 means that it sucks rotten eggs.

0=Weekend Nights: It doesn't matter how you hand looks, weekend nights trump anything else in the game. No classes, countless things to do, whether it's school-sponsored, peer-sponsored, or beer-sponsored, and the freedom to get as hung over as you could ever hope for...not that I endorse that kind of thing...

1=Thursdays: For me at least, Thursday marks the end of the week. I have but one class, and although it meets at 10:30 AM, which requires a certain amount of waking up on my part, I'm left with the rest of the day to do as many stupid things that I can possibly fit in to the better half of the day.

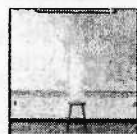
2=More Sex than You Can Shake a Stick At: With so many people who share your interests, and so much freedom, why not enjoy it while you can? And I'm not necessarily saying cheap, meaningless sex; I'm just saying

that there are tons of people to have meaningful sex with. You might even find a "-friend." Now, I know what you're saying. Why isn't sex at the top of the list? Because some of us aren't getting it.

3=Learning New Things: Yeah, I'm a nerd...

4=Those Damn Bureaucrats: So many papers to fill out and get signed and have on file! I'd have graduated by now if it weren't for paperwork (never mind that that's a bold faced lie...ha, get it?)

5=The Death Hangover: Any of you that have experienced it know what I'm talking about. Not only do you feel and look like you're the walking dead, you also wish you were dead, if only for a few days until your head stops pounding. Remember kids, if you're going to drink, drink responsibly.



Beulah-Yoko (2003, Velocette)

On Beulah's last album, *The Coast is Never Clear*, the chorus of "Silver Lining" began: "Punk Rock was my first girl," but one listen to their music, and you realize that while punk rock may have been the first girl, shimmering California country-pop was the first true love. On their new album *Yoko*, you can hear the punk influence, especially in Miles Kurosky's lyrics; The chorus to "Landslide Baby" begins "My baby says it's a lie, it's a cop out, and I know you know I know why/ you won't try. Because you're scared and

you're weak and you don't give a fuck about me/ and I do believe that you hate yourself." Never has a sentiment so Buzzcock-sian ever been said so cheerily, which really gets to the heart of Beulah's charm: they're a band of punks dressed in California Casual playing psychedelic era Beatles inspired cowboy bachelor pad music. It's a perfect combination of pop romanticism and indignation, with an emphasis on chamber-strings and slide guitar, heartbreak music for all the fashionable city-dwellers who spent their childhood days listening to angry youth music. Pay particular close attention to track number 6, "Me and Jesus Don't Talk Anymore." Never has there been a greater song about hanging out with the Devil. So dim the lights, put on your fancy clothes, and pour a couple of martinis, even if you're the only one home; *Yoko* is like the *Weekend*. You're probably going to go out, you're probably going to mingle, you're going to drink regardless, and whether or not you're going to end up with someone, you're going to want to have something to put on to unwind. This is that record.



Bubba Sparxxx-Deliverance (2003, Beat Club/ Interscope)

Bubba Sparxxx: The other white meat. In the hip-hop world, Bubba Sparxxx is to Timbaland as Eminem is to Dr. Dre: a pretty damn competent white protégé to a pretty damn amazing producer. And not to demean either Bubba's

or Em's skills on the mic, because they both demonstrate that they know what they're doing, it's just my personal opinion that neither of them would be where they are if it weren't for the men behind the scenes. Granted, Eminem's persona help launch him into the spotlight (all press is good press), but we're not talking about Eminem here. We're supposed to be talking about Bubba Sparxxx. So keeping that in mind, Bubba is what Kid Rock wishes he were when he tries to sing a country song. Sparxxx manages to combine his Southern, dare I say trailer-park country influences rather inventively, sampling a bluegrass song in one track to combining country fiddling and plaintive singing with synthesized drum-programming and hand claps on the next, but, like I mentioned before this speaks much more of Timbaland's skills as a producer than it does for Sparxxx's skills as a rapper. Most of his rhymes tackle to subject of growing up poor in the south, where moonshine, shotguns, farm animals, fishing and rocking chairs abound, which, after 15 tracks can get a little long in the tooth. A lot like his first album (*Dark Days, Bright Nights*), *Deliverance* could benefit from having about 3 or 4 songs cut from it. *Deliverance* is a lot like having *More Sex than You Can Shake a Stick At*. With that much sex, you're bound to try something new, and more likely than not, it's going to be great, but you're also going to be getting a lot of the same, which can get boring without a little something more meaningful behind it.



Jeff Buckley-Live At Sin-é: Columbia Legacy Edition

(2003, Columbia Records)

Jeff Buckley died too young. He was only 30 when he drowned in the Mississippi river and had only released one full-length album, the phenomenal, heart wrenching *Grace*. *Live at Sin-é* was originally released as a four song EP back in 1993, and it's here given the deluxe treatment, adding 17 songs, a DVD, and 13 "monologues" in between songs. While they provide a little bit of insight into Buckley as a person, they are essentially absolutely worthless, and take away a lot from the likeability of this album. It is definitely not something that you can sit and listen to end to end (for the length of both albums) without having something else to occupy your time; If you can, you have a lot more patience than I. Buckley's jazz-influenced guitar phrasing and vocal noodling are ubiquitous here in this live setting, and while it adds interesting inflections to the songs that were fully formed on *Grace*, they're not something that someone who isn't already a fan is going to be at all concerned with. This record is a lot like *Learning New Things*. There's lots of tuning up, lots of explanation in between songs, and lots of history, whether it be of Buckley's own songs or his influences (he covers Nina Simone, Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, and Nusrat Fateh Ali Kahn just to name a few), but if you weren't already interested in it, you're probably not going to care enough to do the homework.



Kid Dynamite-Cheap Shots and Youth Anthems (2003, Jade Tree)

I was always incredibly upset by the fact that Kid Dynamite broke up after only 2 full-lengths

together. They perfectly combined the urgency of hardcore with great pop hooks and lyrics about topics ranging from girls to growing up, lyrics that are self-reflective without being self-important and self-pitying. To any heart-on-his-sleeve hopeless romantic who's worth his salt, those are some damn fine qualities. This posthumous collection of b-sides, covers, demos, and live tracks only cements their legacy as one of the greatest punk bands of the last 10 years. It speaks well for K.D. and their songs that even on the demo tracks the band sound absolutely amazing and prove that you don't need an enormous recording budget to make great music. The live radio tracks, taken from a performance on WYSP Philadelphia are also phenomenal, even if the recording quality does sound as though it were dubbed onto cassette on someone's home stereo. The covers, of Black Flag, the Circle Jerks, the Clash, Minor Threat, and the Dead Kennedys all do the originals justice, something rarely seen when talking about such iconic bands. This record is a lot like *Thursdays*. It's got so many different things going on that it feels like more than one day, but by the end of it you're looking back fondly on how much you accomplished, and really, how much fun you had.

In the meantime, if you can't wait for more reviews, do yourself a favor and check out <http://hamp.hampshire.edu/~jcp00>. It's got a whole bunch of reviews from this summer, plus archives of old Omen articles. And, if it's still in construction when you go there, please don't hate me. I do have other things I have to do.



SUICIDE DONGERS

Soo, first years, welcome. I'll be writing about many things this year, but I'll touch on some random stuff briefly.

Learn from my experiences! Beware of skeevy Older Students.

Now that I'm a jaded third-year, I am going to share with you all a story that very few have heard, but should be shared here as it is part of Hampshire history, immortalized here in the Omen.

This story marks an EPEC disaster in Lemelson that I am only now comfortable sharing as it is two years after the fact, so hopefully no one will get in trouble.

When I first got here two long years ago, I was in an orientation group to build battlebots. I loved my orientation group. My group leader (who graduated that year) later held an EPEC "make your own sex toy" workshop at Lemelson. Being that he was one of my newer friends, I decided to show up. There were different things to cast, and I wasn't really in the market to make myself a dildo, but I, being an art student, was interested in the casting process. One guy decided he was going to make a dildo cast from his own penis for his girlfriend. I think it was just an excuse to have a silicone version of his own cock to casually have on the shelf in his mod, and when someone asked what it was, he could tell them what it was and they would be impressed and maybe want to have sex with him. Just a

thought. Or maybe he was really going to make it for his "girlfriend."

Nonetheless, he needed people to help, and I was one of the three to volunteer. I volunteered specifically to mix the casting agents. I wanted nothing to do with the rest of this project.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the casting/molding process, I'll give a little explanation. What we were using was this stuff called algenate which would later be poured into a tin foil "boat." This vessel gets wrapped around whatever you want to cast (in this case, it was this guy's penis). The algenate solidifies in about 15 minutes, and then you take it off and you have a mold which you can use to pour in silicone (or whatever material you want the cast to be) and later you have a finished product [dildo].

We (meaning myself, my former orientation leader, the guy who wanted to cast himself, and two other girls) decided it might be best to do this in the bathroom at Lemelson. If you've never been to Lemelson, or never used the bathroom, it's a large one-room bathroom - handicap accessible. I brought the materials in to mix them at the sink and my former orientation leader started forming the tin foil. To my surprise, the guy walked in, casually dropped trou, and started whacking off.

The feeling I got at the moment is probably similar to what you, dear reader, are thinking. It's the "uuhh, okaay, thats

kinda funny, but sorta weird. . yeah" feeling. It hadn't really crossed my mind that in order to cast a good dildo from himself, he would need be erect. The second question I know you are all wondering is "Okay, how big is he?" I can't say for sure, as my memory - in a last-ditch effort to preserve my sanity - has placed a blur over his genetalia - much like the evangelion hentai (if you've seen it) or similarly like on the show Cops where they bust the guy in his home and he's not wearing any pants, so the network blurs it out for TV. I do remember that this guy wasn't small, nor was he freakishly porn-star Rocco huge. He was on the larger side though. And yes, he was a white guy.

No one else seemed surprised or put off, and I - the timid first year who wanted to fit in - didn't want to act crude and walk out. I resolved myself to sitting on the floor with a big blue plastic bowl, a box of algenate and do what I went in to do: mix the algenate with water. the algenate was this pastel bluish doughy stuff. It's similar to the "pizza dough" that dentists and orthodontists use for casting teeth. The other two girls (both were third or fourth years) were standing against the wall on standby with saran wrap. The guy had decided that he didn't want to get his clothes dirty, so he took all of them off. It was a sincere and legitimate concern.

By this time, the algenate was ready to be poured, but the guy was a little nervous and was

having trouble maintaining an erection. The guy lost it once he had placed his member into the tin foil and we had begun to pour the mixture. Understandable - I mean the poor guy is in a cold bathroom, naked with a bunch of strangers who aren't naked and staring at him. But no erection means the mold was ruined.

My former orientation leader decided that if we were going to try again, he may as well do one of himself too as not to "waste" the "extra" algenate mixture. He too, took off his pants and began beating it. The other guy was trying deperately to fluff himself as I sat on the other end of the bathroom mixing in the big blue bowl (I made twice as much, so there would be enough "extra"). Remember the two other girls? one of them decided she would make the two guys feel "less awkward" by taking her shirt off. The other girl was her friend and was laugh-

ing. That's when my orientation leader realized we needed more tin foil. I immediatly jumped up and left the bathroom.

Don (one of the cool Lemelson guys) was right outside the bathroom, and asked me what was going on in there. I said to him that they were casting dildos and he smiled, laughed, rolled his eyes, and shrugged.

"Oh, okay," he said, "I better not go in there huh?"

I shook my head "You really do NOT want to go in there."

He walked to the side while I went to get the tin foil.

I knocked nervously on the bathroom door.

"You guys decent?" I asked. I

heard one of the girls say

"No, but come in anyway" and then a bunch of giggling.

Now, here's the weird part. I slowly opened the door. The girl who had earlier taken off her shirt was now completely naked and the other girl had just taken off her shirt. The guy and my orientation leader were both at the sink hard at work "maintaining their erections." The new mixture was ready to be poured.

I laughed at the absurdity of the situation and helped pour into the new tin foil. It was at that moment that we ran out of paper towels (this stuff is messy). I was the only one dressed, so I left the bathroom once again to get some. There was a bit of a crowd that had formed outside the bathroom. All these people were trying to hear what was going on. I got asked a few times and my response was

"You really don't want to know."

Understandable - I mean the poor guy is in a cold bathroom, naked with a bunch of strangers who aren't naked and staring at him.

When I returned to the bathroom, both guys were naked and grasping their tin-foil wrapped penises which were propped on the sink.

Because a large amount of algenate is needed to completely surround and encapsulate whatever it is that you're casting, they looked like that had Giant Silver-Salami Metal Robot Cocks (from Hell!). People outside the bathroom were shouting things like

"What are you guys doing in there?" and "Need any help?"

Meanwhile, both guys were grabbing the girls' breasts while the girls were kissing the guys all

over. I decided to play stupid and innocent, and politely asked why they were doing that. One of the girls responded with "They need to keep an erection for 15 minutes. Its not like they have any porn or anything. How else are they gonna do it?"

That's when I shrugged and said "when in Rome..." and I took off my shirt. I sat there in my bra for a while and watched while the guy made out with the other girl. I mentioned on the side about his girlfriend, and his response is one of the most absurd justifications I had ever heard:

"This IS for my girlfriend! I'm making out with this girl to maintain my erection so I can make my girlfriend a present!!!"

Oh, duh, right.

It was then that the girls started saying "oh c'mon, take off your clothes, it'll be fun!"

I was finally and officially weirded out. I politely declined, put my shirt on and left. To this day it was probably one of the best descisions I have ever made. Ever. It wasn't a bad situation, it wasn't dangerous, it was just really fucking WEIRD. This happened all in my first few weeks at Hampshire two years ago. On a side note, I ran into my former orientation leader a day or so later who informed me that the molds didn't hold together for a silicone casting. I really think this is one of those projects that you really should do at home. I also think there was a rule put in place about the number of people allowed in the bathroom of Lemelson. I don't know if the rule is still in place, but I would advise against even asking.

Let us never speak of this again.





BREAKFAST WITH THE PRESIDENT



Good [time of day] folks, and welcome to Omen's brand new Breakfast with The President©. Here you can find recaps of that very same SAGA special event, recalled in a completely semi-unbiased manner and brimming with journalistic integrity. Assuming that I, Mr. Aaron Buchsbaum, find the zeal to stumble bleary-eyed across campus each Monday morning, you the dedicated reader shall not want for details of student discussion with Greg Prince. As the first installment of such a seminal column, I should point out a few decisions I've made concerning its structure:

1.) All quotes, paraphrases, and other conversational summations will be attributed to fictitious bodies, save for those coming from President Prince. I have not asked students attending Breakfast with The President whether they take issue with being identified in the Omen.

2.) Direct quotations are, to the best of my knowledge, taken verbatim from conversation. Any discrepancies are purely unintentional and should not be construed as libel.

3.) I consider everything discussed during Breakfast with The President to be public matter, and able to be reprinted and discussed here in the Omen.

4.) I don't actually have a fourth point, and the third one is looking superfluous anyway.

Sounds good, right? Now sit back and bask in the glory that is: Breakfast with The President©.

Date: 9-14-03

Place: SAGA, middle room

Time: 7:30, sharp

I arrive and take a seat at one of the round tables towards the back of the room. A few other students trickle in along with me. There are six of us present before President Prince arrives. He excuses himself briefly to put butter and jelly on his cinnamon-raisin bagel.

Topic 1: The Tavern

Mr. Jimmy Ballzawf is eager to see the notorious Prescott Tavern up and running A.S.A.P. He expresses a "great need" for student spaces, citing the fact that the Airport Lounge [wasn't] open at the time. In order for the Tavern to become functional the building must first be brought up to code as a restaurant establishment; According to Mr. Ballzawf, discussions with Prescott House and FiCom have been ongoing in this regard. In addition, the complex process of hiring a new over-seer/manager must be undertaken. President Prince asks if Mike Ford has been made aware of the situation. The answer is yes, and that the interested students are working to develop a written plan for his approval. President Prince seems pleased, agrees that the Tavern should open, and says he will discuss it with Mike Ford later in the day. He also notes that the Tavern has gone through several cycles of being student-run or adult-run, and that Sodexo (although reticent) could be an alternative in helping keep up to code.

Topic 1 1/2: Prescott in General

Conversation segues into a brief discussion of Prescott as a whole, as Ms. Henny Penny raises concerns over falling community space. Specifically Ms. Penny is concerned with the house office itself, and senses a "disconnect" between residential life and the administration. President Prince agrees to stop by Prescott and see the situation for himself, though he warns Ms. Penny not to assume too much, and assures her that a good deal of money has already been put into Prescott.

Topic 2: Pianists Going on Tour

One Hampshire graduate and one current student (Tweedle-Dee & Tweedle-Dope) are looking to fund a tour from here to Montreal, regaling listeners with a fusion of classical and jazz piano. President Prince says he will gladly "drum up support" but cannot commit any direct funding. He tells the students, "start giving me the business plan for that one."

Topic 3: NS School Van

Minnie Driver is concerned about the sudden lack of an NS school van. Currently there are only two Hampshire vans available for the entire school, making it difficult for a number of NS professors to organize field trips. President Prince asks how many problems this has caused, and Ms. Driver fills in details about trip cancellations and the need to use personal vehicles.

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FIRST SEMESTER DIV 3

by: Amy Grumbling

Being "Div III" has instant effects. A professor who doesn't know me oohed and ahed over the fact that this will be my last year (knock on wood). First year students have been silent with awe when I mentioned it. I've spent more time at the multisport than I have in the past 3 years.

I think the epistemology around the divisional system at Hampshire College seems to result in a deification of the Div III. Completing Div III has been built up in my mind for the past three years as a big mythical enlightenment; working on a Div III has sounded like a transcendent epic battle with research, Central Records, intellectual ideals, and of course, oneself - a battle that can hardly even be contemplated.

So it came as a shock to me, no doubt along with a number of F'00's who are on track academically, and a few F'01's and S'01's who are 'uppity bastards' (in the parlance of our times), that we all actually have to DO a Div 3—starting . . . NOW! And suddenly, being a first semester Div 3 seems like getting what I always wanted, and as a result being too dumbfounded to know what to do with it; Hence the frequent working out in addition to making lots of lists of what lists I need to make.

All the attention's kind of nice, but I feel like I don't really deserve it yet. But here's one comfort: We're ALL really goddamn confused. I haven't yet spoken to a first semester Div 3 who knows exactly what they're

doing.

There's a sort of stigma associated with being Div III that makes me not want to do a "Div III." I just want to do a big independent project with some feedback from professors. I might just refer to my Div III as "that thing I'm working on," in order to avoid the anxiety attacks that are most likely to come at the thought of the term.

For those of you unfamiliar with my schizophrenic academic history, I concentrated in physical anthropology, video production and what ever else I could claim was relevant to those two subjects. Trying to cram it into one Div III project was like last week when we tried to use a beer bottle to catch the river-like leak in our bathroom plumbing. During the middle of the day I'm completely confident that my project plans are going well. But when Darkness Falls (man, I hated that movie!), doubt sinks its crooked teeth into my shoulder.

I've received the following pieces of advice, feedback and meditations on my Div III and the Div III process in general in the past few weeks. Maybe they will help or amuse others in a similar situation:

- "You should do something for your Div III that you wouldn't be afraid to fail at." - Benni

- "So... Where's the biology in your Div III?" - my Div II Chair

- "I just feel that if you don't incorporate physical anthropology into your Div III, it will be a waste." - my Div II Chair

- "You know you have to make

up your mind! Pick up on one and leave the other behind! It's not often easy and not often kind! But sooner or later, you've got to decide." - My father, rephrasing the Lovin' Spoonful's "Did you ever have to make up your mind."

- "That's already been done in *Adaptation*." - Alli

- You know a few parts of what you'd like to do. Start doing those, and then you'll start to get an idea of what will work for you. These things will begin to develop. - A very rough paraphrasing of Abraham Ravett

- "So that's what you want to do with the rest of your life?" - Alli

- "I just saw this photography exhibit that had extreme close-ups of vegetables that looked almost like people and were abstract until you got further away. You could do something like that for your Div III." - My mother.

- Rebecca: "If I got pregnant right now, I'd get an abortion like *that* [she snaps her fingers], because I've got a Div III to do."

Nickey: "If I got pregnant right now, I'd totally get an abortion. But if I got pregnant 8 months from now, I don't know, 'cause my Div III would be done."

- "We're all lost. That's the point. The only relief is knowing that there are no answers." - My sister

- "I've seen people do nothing all year, and then write a paper in two weeks and graduate. And they were *good* papers, too." - Ryan Moore.

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BREAKFAST WITH . . .

President Prince seems concerned over this piece of news, and says "If anyone wants to donate a van, [Hampshire will] insure it".

Topic 4: Theater

Darma Keen begins by inviting President Prince to all the productions being put on this year, drops the 'lack-of-space-in-EDH' bomb. According to Ms. Keen, the "storage problem is becoming really embarrassing", with the main stage full of furniture and the studio full of everything else. Currently it is

only possible for one show to practice on stage at any given time, which is a problem considering the schedules of two shows often overlap. Ms. Keen also recounts times she has seen students on touring campus become visibly disappointed upon seeing the theater facility. At the very least, she would like a second trailer for storage. Apparently this is news to President Prince: "First time I've heard of this one".

I left partway through this last conversation, ostensibly to

do something important. Suffice to say it was approaching 8:20, and Breakfast with The President was still going strong. I hope you, the Omen readership, enjoyed this somewhat newsworthy article. Keep a lookout next issue for more Monday morning recapping, perhaps with a little more pizzazz in its description. In all likelihood I'll be covering both upcoming breakfasts: 9-22 and 9-27.



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FIRST SEMESTER . . .

"Don't worry, it's just the beginning. It will never be perfect. It will never be that all-amazing, all-encompassing thing you think it will. So just get a general idea/topic and dive in, you'll accidentally stumble across something that will just fascinate the hell out of you. And focused topics even are much larger than you think. Your Div III in the beginning is nothing like your Div III in the end. Just let it happen

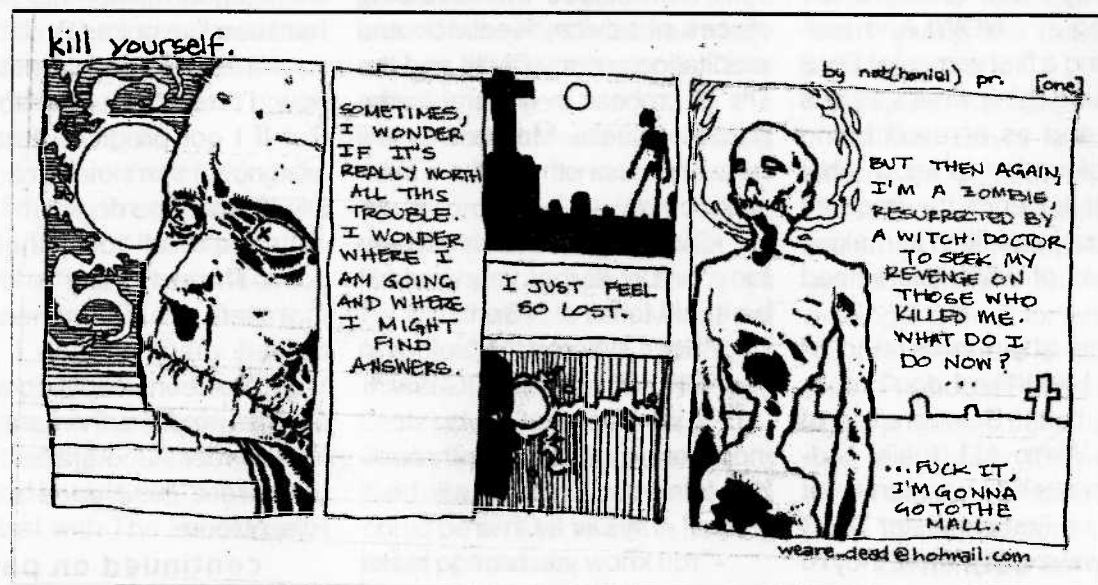
and it will happen." - Beth Day, in an email to Rebecca Costello

"God looks out for you especially." - the creepiest fortune cookie ever.

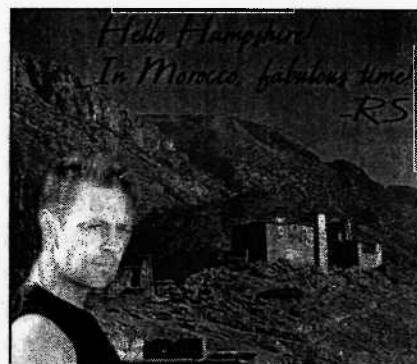
I'm ready to listen, say thanks, smile and nod to everyone. But, in the end, this is MY thing that I'm working on. I'm making my own decisions, and learning what I think I'll need for the stark mean streets beyond Camp Hamp. Beth Day has some wicked good

advice.

So, if you're a first semester Div III, don't worry. Just close your eyes, and go where your academic desires will take you. Remember: It's about the process. If you worry about the result right now, you'll never get started. October 3rd is a whole week away - and besides, we can still revise our contracts until February.



ROCCOLOGY ON THE ROAD: Pt. 1



by: Karl Moore

(Photograph courtesy Aundria Theocles)

Hello, Hampshire Fresh classes! Is former professor IA Rocco Siffredi! Hoped you are not forgetting.

Today it is Rocco on the Road! To start, Mo-rocco! Here is me there!

But, not talking today of my trip. Writing surviving of college guide for students in Hampshire attending! Have tips!

1. All possible, request the ass-sexing. Is no good to have *bambino* whiling at University, this is much true. And I am hearing girls the complaint of long pregnant. Never have I heard of ass-baby- so I am rate it 100% effect! Always, always, asking for ass- if girl refuse, she no respect you and you should no sex.
2. Not eating the Dining Common! Is being common crap-swill! Having *cucina* in your lounge, so better!
3. Shaving, shaving, shave!
4. Riding the bus! American cars is punching line of engineer joke! Ride bus have you meet many *bella bambinas*. Remembering: If you keeing seat open, later are things may opening her!

Also, colleges in close living, may get meningitis, the flu, yes, here is for recipe tonic- keeping you health, yes!

Health Tonic of Rocco Siffredi:

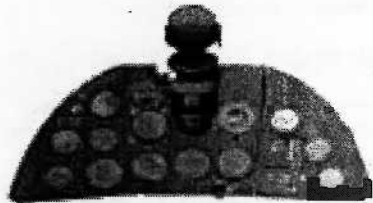
1 L bull semen
dash bitters

Well, it is that for my advising,! Rest is of on your own. Oh, and never worrying about the herpes- is nothing, little cream on dick and it going away. Is like pimple.!

Great studying, Hampshire! I musting go! Ciao!

(Ed. Note: Rocco Siffredi is a former IA professor at Hampshire College, where he was renowned for courses like IA 264, "Power Dynamics in Video Production" in addition to teaching various levels of Italian. He is also a world-famous adult film star, his latest role the titular character in 2002's *The Ass Collector*.)





THE CONTROL PANEL

This Week:

Cultural Appropriation is Fun... To Talk About!

Rebecca Costello: She will throw down with the best of them. Did I mention she is on the Trustee EPC committee?

Rachael Abed: Third year ne'er do well studying adolescent psychology and education.

Jeffrey I. Paternostro: Div II Dingus (Film, Literature and Writing).

Justin M. Philpot: Div III Doofus (Music/Media).

Alli Hartley: Cusp Div III who agrees with the above two statements and sometimes makes them obvious.

Aaron Buchsbaum: Div II NS-Geek. Useless, particularly in Control Panels because he internalizes EVERYTHING.

(Discussion about what we're going to talk about, when Jeff suggests we talk about Cultural Appropriation, Divestment from Israel and the School Store no longer selling cigarettes.)

Alli: I think I speak about that, interestingly enough.

Justin: I think we have a wide range of experiences there.

Rebecca: Alright.

Alli: I'll be like "I work at the school store, and I think that's whack."

RC: Do you think they tried to make their money back from selling cigarettes by having that rummage sale?

JMP: Oh no, there's no way that that rummage sale could've accomplished that.

RC: I think that's the idea of the rummage sale, was like to try to make back some of the money that they lost from cigarettes.

AH: Honey, that's whack.

RC: All the stuff that you brought to the House

Office at the end of the year, the stuff they didn't donate to charity, they put in the rummage sale. Peoples perception is that they went into peoples mods and put it into the rummage sale...

Rachel: I don't think they did that, I just think its funny that they're making up for the sale of cigarettes by...

AH: I think that's whack, and what's more I don't think its true. Not only whack, but not true.

RC: Well it was definitely the store that was running it.

AH: Yeah, it was the store that was running it (interruption...) My point was more that the campus store did do it, but I doubt that that would... I think that that would be a drop in the bucket to the amount of cigarette sales that we had made... I think... Drop in the Bucket. Capital D, capital B.

JIP: Ultimately, the problem with not selling cigarettes anymore like with millions of decisions that have been made at this campus, is that it comes down to a matter of degree. The whole basis, for not selling cigarettes any more, is that Greg has decided that we shouldn't be supporting the tobacco industry. Which is fine and a noble goal and whatever. However, you can't look at the tobacco industry as just selling cigarettes.

AH: Kraft, blah blah blah...

JIP: ...blah blah blah... Kraft, Macaroni... We still sell Kraft Macaroni and Cheese.

RA: Alright, but when you start doing that, all those nice health food brands that we all want to buy are owned by one of those other brands, are owned by one of the tobacco brands.

JIP: Well then, I agree but it's hypocritical then to say, that we're doing this because we don't want to support the tobacco industry.

AH: It's not hypocritical because of the degree of money that goes specifically to the tobacco industry. As opposed to Kraft, which like... it goes though so many things that it gets like one billionth percent and it's much less than if you just buy a pack of tobacco. But I think it's whack. And I think that you should note that I am a smoker.

JIP: Ultimately it's very paternalistic on Hampshire's part to sort of legislate what activities it's student body can and cannot engage in. I mean ultimately we've gotten to the point where we're more lenient on pot smoking than we are on cigarette smoking. I mean you can get pot anywhere on this campus, it's a lot harder to get cigarettes!

JMP: Yeah but just because you can get it doesn't mean it's you know, condoned.

RC: And I think that... they're not saying that you can't smoke they're saying that they won't profit from your smoking there's a difference.

AH: Yeah but isn't there something to be said that Hampshire college bookstore is an independent store?

JMP: Not when they report to the purchasing department of the business office.

JIP: They're independent in name only

RC: They're independent in that Hampshire hasn't contracted out with like, you know, Barnes and Noble or something to run the bookstore. That's how they're independent, you know, they're not affiliated with anybody but us.

JMP: I'm not entirely sure they're contracted out at all I mean, what do you mean by contracted out?

RC: Like duplications was.

JIP: No, duplications was privatized. Duplications was not umm, the status of it being independent of Hampshire college wasn't rendered one way or the other. Hampshire pays, you know, Duplications makes a certain amount of money off photocopying.

JMP: Christine is a Hampshire employee. Like, Lauri is a Hampshire employee. Like they have no other affiliation nobody else is paying them. When there was the whole thing about cultural appropriation at Hampshire, Hampshire people, including representatives from the Purchasing Office, who approve their inventory and their buying, came in and looked at what the problem was. So, it is very much a Hampshire thing, which is why Greg says selling cigarettes supports companies that we don't want to support, but more importantly it was the Trustees that felt that it was hypocritical, because the amount of money that the school store was bringing in in a year from cigarette sales was in the tens of thousands of dollars. I think the number that is usually quoted is \$50,000 a year.

JIP: Ultimately, though for me, its a trade-off,

because they've lost a huge chunk of their profit now, and where its going to have to come from is price increases on other things.

RC: Or contracting out.

JIP: Or contracting out.

AH: I just think that it is horrible of the School Store to adhere to a specific number of people... I can understand the Trustees, but this cultural appropriation shit, its like, yeah but there is an entire mass of other people who like it or don't care or think its fun or think its wonderful... you shouldn't be offended by everything you see in a store. Its a store, it sells things, that's what it does. It bothers me.

JIP: Well, as someone who wrote a very angry and very bitchy article about the entire cultural appropriation debate last spring, what bothered me about it the most wasn't that - it was Hampshire speak, essentially. They didn't actually say what the problem was, by giving specific incidences of it, they just assumed their cause was so righteous that everyone else would know exactly what they were talking about and agree with them. And as Hampshire students are wont to do, couldn't possibly comprehend that someone would have a differing opinion backed up by fact and logic.

RC: Well, that's not what they said. What they said when people complained that they didn't give specific incidents, was that they thought if they gave specific examples everybody would nitpick them, they would say, "Well we think X trinket is offensive" and people would go, "Well, you could see it this way, you could see it that way." They didn't want to get down to bickering about specific examples.

AH: And so they hide behind generalities.

RC: What they wanted to do was to say was "look, it's offensive to us. Could you please just take our word for that, and trust us that yes, these things upset us and they offend us and we don't feel comfortable having them in our school store?"

JIP: But then you get a policy of a small minority of the students here dictating campus policy on issues. I mean, this is just a microcosm of much larger problems at Hampshire. Five people say "We're offended by this" and the administration just clicks its heels and that's that.

RC: Well I think that depends on what kind of thing that they're objecting to. If you're objecting to plastic trinkets in the school store, how much

does that really matter to me as someone who's never really cared about them one way or the other? Eliminating those doesn't seem that important to me. Eliminating something that might be a lot more important - I might have a bigger problem with. But you know, hula girls - if they upset somebody that much, they're not that important to my life, good-bye.

AH: I think with me it's a problem with principle. I don't want a bunch of, you know - I don't want eight people saying what Hampshire wants, because I want something different and they send this out assuming that everyone else feels the same way. And then suddenly, snap snap, all these things are gone. And I mean, I personally liked hula girls. I feel like that's really offensive, maybe, to some people, but I feel like that's what makes the Hampshire store fun, that we have toys like that. And if it just becomes a regular UMass store with, you know, Hampshire college t-shirts and stuff, what's the point of being at Hampshire?

RC: Well you can have fun stuff without...

AH: I want toys.

RC: You can have toys without being offensive to people who walk into the store -

AH: No you can't. I don't think you can have toys without being offensive. Guns are offensive, Barbie dolls are offensive, G.I. Joes are offensive - everything that appeals to some

sort of common instinct is in some way offensive to people. And until people get over that there will be no toys left.

JIP: There is an ideological principle here that Hampshire has tried to follow in the past and I assume guided their decision on the cigarettes and the larger issue of cultural appropriation.

One of the things that Hampshire is very proud of is that it was the first college to divest from South Africa. One of the first things I heard when I got to campus, I believe it was Aaron Berman, was giving a speech on how you know, Hampshire - it might have been Greg Prince, I think it was Aaron Berman though - Hampshire was the first school to divest from South Africa and we have certain principles that guide who we will and will not do business with and what

things we will or will not sell or invest in. And it came up again in the whole move to divest from Israeli companies as well at the end of last semester and now going through to this semester. And again, there's an ideological principle here that says, we don't agree with Israel's policies in the way they've handled, you know, territorial disputes, relationships with the Palestinians - whatever, whatever is said - but we're saying that we as a student body, as an academic institution, when it comes down to a business, we don't want to do business with these people. And the problem they're gonna run into is while generally 99% of people, and certainly we'll agree that apartheid was a terrible idea, it's a lot harder to get you know, even a majority that will say we don't like the way Israel is running things. And it's such a divisive issue, I mean it brings in issues of culture, and history, and religion, and over thousands and thousands of years that ultimately you realize that there is a certain amount of intellectual diversity on this campus that has to be respected and we

should not be guiding - 8 or 9 people should not be guiding Hampshire policy, 100 people shouldn't be guiding Hampshire policy, 300 people shouldn't be guiding Hampshire policy. SPR, two years ago - x amount of people should not be guiding Hampshire policy, should not be speaking on behalf of the school,

and act like they have the authority to do that just because they happen to go here. I happen to go here too, and my enrollment in a private, unaffiliated, nonreligious liberal arts college should not be used to infer any political or religious beliefs or any moral imperative on my behalf.

RC: So you believe the college should not divest from Israel; should not make any move, in any direction, on any issue.

JIP: I'm not saying that at all, I'm saying that there needs to be a more clear mandate than what I have seen on any of these issues. And no one wants to give them because they just want their point... There has to be discussion, there has to be discourse. The foundation of this college - Greg will tell you - is Principles of

Discourse. There should be discussion on these issues. It should not be "twenty people signed a letter put it in everyone's mailbox, we're going to move." People should be discussing these issues as a college campus.

AH: And there was no discussion about the horrible trinkets in the campus store. People were like "lets talk about this - we're ready to talk about this" and then it fizzled down. Then suddenly Boom, the Hampshire store - no longer Hula, no longer Jesus. No Hula Jesus. Which would be AWESOME. (Grass Skirt Jesus Laughter)

RC: I disagree I think there were forums. People did talk about it...

AH: I didn't see anything on anything but the Daily Jolt.

JIP: There were forums.

RC: There were forums. There were forums to discuss this. I went to one of them, and...

AH: I don't think there was enough discussion to call for the Hampshire College Bookstore to move. I think that a lot of people were whining and I know I'm going to get beat up for saying that.

JIP: Cultural appropriation is a serious sociological issue. Its a serious social and cultural problem in this country right now.

AH: I don't necessarily think it's a problem within Hampshire College Bookstore, however.

JIP: It is easy to just say that it isn't a problem here. And it may be to some extent a problem here. However, those issues were never fully explored. Everyone wants a quick fix here.

RC: That's the flaw in some of the process. I feel like, there were forums which some of the people attended. Relatively few people attended, and then I felt like the impression that I got when the letter went out with Greg that you know, a lot of serious thoughtful discussion had taken place between the management and the people who felt that way, but all behind the scenes. That was the impression that I got. And I wanted to know more of what they talked about because I personally don't think it was a bad decision. I probably think it was a good decision I - like I said you pick your fights and honestly this certainly wasn't a fight I'd care to fight even if I strongly believed in Hula girls. And I didn't think that other people cared to fight for Hula girls either because I didn't exactly see like other people protesting outside the store saying "Bring

back Hula girls." Nobody was offended enough by the absence of Hula girls to write a letter and put it in everybody's box and that tells me that as small as that group had been they felt more strongly than any other small group on campus.

JMP: No, I don't think that that's the case at all. I think that a group of people got together, agreed on something and then tried to enforce, inflict or coerce their opinion on a larger group of people on something that was worded so vaguely and could be taken so open-handedly that had they gone through and started looking at all the books and all the textbooks that had been sold, all the fiction, all the poetry and started pulling those things out, all the erotica is gone, all the religious books that talk about religious differences based on where people grew up, maybe they all go too. Any book written about black music by a white person goes, because obviously thats appropriation. And obviously he's co-opting an experience and capitalizing on it for his own gain, so that has to go. It's not simple like that. You don't go in - their unwillingness to cite specific examples in a situation like that simply means to me that they're unwilling to fight and defend their point of view when it comes to actual practical instances. They'll fight higher, at the ideological level, but they won't fight in reality and I think that that's very typical of how Hampshire ends up dealing with issues. They try to meet an ideal, and what ends up happening is they screw up the reality - the day to day stuff gets mired down in an ideal that has no practical application because nobody's thought about it enough or talked about it enough to make it work.

AH: And I think that's largely based on fear. I think that people are afraid of offending very angry people with pointy teeth who say that cultural appropriation is bad. Blah blah blah racism blah blah blah sexism. It's very hard to argue in ideological terms when everything is so sensitive.

Rachel: Well I think that that's a good example because they use these generalities and these buzzwords, so how exactly are you going to argue no no, cultural appropriation may be a good thing?

AH: You can't argue.

RA: You can't argue, yeah.

AH: And that's unfair when they tie one hand behind your back, you cant fight back.

JMP: You come here and one of the foundations of Hampshire education is you write, you do your own research. You go out and you find answers and you apply them. You cite your sources. You have specific arguments. You outline things in very finite terms to the very best of your ability and apply them later to the larger ideological argument. When you start with the ideological argument and refuse to work backwards you get stuck somewhere in the middle and you end up with people like us sitting around wondering what it was all worth, because there is no difference. Cultural Appropriation has still not been talked enough here amongst the community at Hampshire.

RC: I think that's a really interesting point that you're making, because in one of my classes they had a chart kind of a U shaped chart, and at the top you start up with the Status Quo - there's people that are being oppressed and they are unable to express that, and then they start expressing it and you move down the bottom of the U to tokenism, where people are like well, here's the way that you can have your views expressed or we'll give you these little tidbits but truly we're not going to change the system, we're just going to return things to the Status Quo as soon as possible. Like giving you these little sops to your complaints. And then you move further down the U where people say No, this tokenism is not acceptable, and the people in power say well, it just needs to be, and the people say, "well if you're not going to Listen to me, I'm going to shout," and the people in power say "if you're going to shout we're not going to listen." I feel like we've gotten to that point several times over the past couple of years - that point where people are saying what is going on right now is not acceptable and they start to shout and people object to their method of discourse. And I feel like at that point, at that point in the U in the chart there has to come this turning point in order to not go back to the Status Quo, there has to come this turning point where everybody has to come to this realization where they say, "OK we have to listen to what they're saying" and then they move up to the other side of the U into a more balanced and fair system. I feel like what happens is we get to that point, that shouting point and then it goes behind the scenes, it goes behind the curtain. I feel like it happened that way with the protest

on Accepted Students day over the housing policy. People had a problem with the way that happened. And the next thing you know, Special Interest Housing is being guaranteed mods again. Same thing with the Cultural Appropriation issue. A lot of people had problems with the letter, and the next thing we know, that stuff's gone from the store. I'm not saying those were wrong or bad decisions. I'm saying that the community can't be behind them unless that point of realization is reached by more people than just the administration. And not that people who need change to happen have to wait for everyone to come around, but the discussion can't stop there, and I don't know how to keep that going.

RA: Also, we need to get the opportunity to express our views to the administration, to everybody, but I think with that comes the responsibility to include the entire community that they're shouting at in the process that follows.

AH: I think that the administration does shut us up. I think that that goes with the curtain metaphor that Rebecca was talking about. I think that they're trying to make us happy and very few people are except for the 8 people who are very excited about the lack of Hula girls now. And at the same time I don't know if that should necessarily be something that should be elevated to the level of, well, if you don't hear us we're going to shout it. I don't how feel like it was a great injustice in this world. It's a fucking Hula girl. I feel like it was something that was done on a purely ideological level. Maybe they didn't even mean the Hula girls. Maybe they meant something entirely different.

JIP: Really we have no way of knowing because they didn't cite specific examples.

AH: We're just assuming it's the Hula girl thing and it could be, the cheese.

JMP: I heard it was the Tiki Mugs.

JIP: And the glow in the dark Virgin Mary.

AH: Glow in the dark Virgin mary is another rumor.

JIP: Well that gets into borderline issues too. You could argue that the Virgin Mary is more important in Catholic/Hispanic cultures than it is in white Europe. But again, this touches on a larger problem at this school which is dissemination of information between the administration and the students, or the student government and

the students. Community council doesn't have minutes for anything. No one knows why the Tavern is closed. No one tells anyone anything. Period. We are Ultimately left in the dark. No one really knows the process in which - when is the last time anyone saw the minutes of a trustee meeting? Which is really where the power on this campus is held. When was the last time any of that was disseminated to the campus? I mean, you can find it if you really want to go look for it, and I'm not excusing students who complain after the fact when there really was information out there to get, but still, if things of importance are being decided the people making those decisions at least have an obligation to inform the rest of the campus that these decisions are being made, this is when these decisions are being made. And that just doesn't happen.

AH: Well it's the same thing as it was when, as Rebecca was talking about in the last forum about the first year plan, I went with her to a couple of meetings and they said, "we'll have all these meetings we'll talk about it," and then we end up - I don't think we were listened to at all. And so that was done just to placate the masses. I think that even if we had meetings it wouldn't do any good. Even if we were allowed to bitch while the decision making process was made it wouldn't do any good. We're doomed, ultimately.

JIP: Well, part of this, a lot of this, falls on the castration of student government too. They are supposed to be our elected representatives and supposed to represent the students for issues of importance. Community Council under the I Ching, (laughter) If you look at the archives, was originally conceived to have a lot of say in the day to day running of the school. That's why they have staff representatives, that's why they have faculty representatives. There was supposed to be a certain amount of power given to the students to dictate how the college would run, what kind of courses were offered. There are always student representatives in each of the schools, but you know along the way through a various number of factors - Community Council delegating it's power to nonelected bodies, just the general trend away from this belief in an experimental educational system where students have a lot of input into it - that while Hampshire nominally stands for that, less and less power

is in the hands of students to effect curriculum, to effect what courses are offered, to effect the actual academic system here. You're just left with the power in the hands of fewer and fewer people, and eventually, because of that the power falling back into the hands of the administration and the trustees, (because no one else is really speaking up for the students), the students as a mass can't really form a unified voice for themselves.

JMP: The impression I get from Rebecca and Aaron and the other folks I know that have done Div 3's in NS is that the Natural Science department is the only department left on campus that runs itself the way all of the departments are supposed to be run.

JIP: It's also the one that has the most founding faculty in it too, and the president has been here the longest.

RC: Their school meetings are open. Anybody can attend. It's just such a good feeling to be a student representative. The other schools have one, and professors ask their favorite students to put in their little written paragraph about how they want to be the student rep, and then the faculty will choose the one they want. That's not student representation! No one even knows who their student rep is for their school, and that is so important. It's ten times more important than your student rep for Community Council! Nobody even knows School reps happen. They don't even know they exist. They don't know what a school meeting is. I mean 95 percent of the students on this campus have no clue how decisions are made and I feel like that's where 95 percent of the bitching comes from. And that's why I feel like 95 percent of it is totally unjustified because until you make an effort to educate yourself and find out what's going on and why, you have no cause for complaint.

AH: At the same time at a school that's supposed to be incredibly open and incredibly open to discourse and all that shit, I feel like there shouldn't be such a heavy curtain behind it all, you know? It shouldn't be so hard to find out.

JMP: Transparency is definitely a problem. When I was walking around to get Trustee bylaws everything on the Hampshire webpages says go see somebody in the Dean of Faculty's office, they have the Trustee bylaws. I went to the Dean of Faculty's office and asked for the Trustee bylaws, and the first question that I was asked

was "Why? Why do you want them?" in and amongst comments like "we don't have them, I hate that webpage!" You know, the webpage is full of misinformation and there was one woman who I have seen around and who has been working in the Dean of Faculty's office - at least in Cole - the entire time I've been here. And she said "yes we do

in fact have them, but you have to go and ask the President's office if it's okay for us to give them to you." Which seemed a little bit weird, but I go to the President's office, and the office is completely empty. There's nobody there to ask. I go up to try to get the Community Council bylaws and the person who is in the office is not on

office hours and not on Community Council anymore, and what's more the keyboard is busted and they can't even get them off the computer so "Could you come back another time?" Meanwhile they have websites and things like that that are never updated. And the only reason that I will get them tomorrow is because I asked somebody on campus, who said he had them, if he could bring them to me. That is not a transparent process. That's negligence in upkeep.

JIP: There is a certain amount of veracity to Rebecca's point. That there is a certain attitude. "Well, there is a very important meeting today but I'm just going to smoke a bowl in my room and complain about it afterwards that I wasn't consulted." But by the same token Justin's point is very valid in that the administration doesn't really publicize it at all. There is an obligation for these things to be made available to the campus. There is no reason that I as a student of this college - the decisions of the Trustees directly effect me. I pay, what is it? 37 thousand dollars a year to go here? - should not be able to get the Community Council bylaws or the Trustee bylaws, things that effect my day to day life here, whenever the hell I want!

RA: It's also ridiculous that in a college this size

there is so much bureaucracy to go through that. Especially considering it's only on one floor of one building. I mean come on, it shouldn't be this hard.

RC: I just feel like - what I said earlier about people not taking the responsibility of educating themselves - I mean, I'm not saying that

they're not totally justified in checking out of the process at the same time. When people complain that nobody goes to Community Council elections I don't blame them. They know that there's not a whole lot that they're missing out on by failing to vote. Because they think, and rightly, "what has Community Council ever done for me?" And I think any member of

Community Council would admit that they couldn't name a single thing! So really people are only responding exactly as they should, which is to say, "Look, this government has nothing to do with me, and I'm not interested in participating. If I am only going to have one student rep, and I'm not it, forget it. If the trustees are never gonna publicize their minutes and they're gonna do whatever they want, whatever I say, why should I bother?" You know, people are making a conscious decision about where to spend their time and energy, and there's a lot better things - I have to agree that they can invest their time and energy in better things, given the return they're gonna get on it. If they spend it in student government, (I've seen so many great people just you know, spat out whole by Community Council) and they say, "Never again. I don't ever want to do it again." These are people who could give great things to the Hampshire Community, but Community Council sucks that energy and does nothing with it. I'm not saying it's a slam to the people, you know the individuals on Community Council, because they're the ones who are having their energy sucked. It's the system and the way it's set up that is keeping people from getting anything done.

"No one even knows who their student rep is for their school, and that is so important. It's ten times more important than your student rep for Community Council! Nobody even knows School reps happen. They don't even know they exist. They don't know what a school meeting is. I mean 95 percent of the students on this campus have no clue how decisions are made."

AH: Well Rebecca, though I admit there is a certain *veracity* (Stares at Jeff) and *validity* (stares at Jeff again) to your statement, I would like to add another point, which is this - how do you propose that the system could be changed to *ameliorate* (Totally making fun of Jeff and his use of "three dollar" words) this crisis?

RC: I don't know maybe Rachael has some ideas.

Aaron: This is where Hampshire's gonna fall apart. This is where all of Hampshire discussion falls apart.

RA: I don't know. I think the main problem like Rebecca said is that everyone already has made conscious decisions.

RC: Or is unconscious.

RA: So at this point there is a real lack of enthusiasm from the majority of the student body and perhaps that's justified, but, at the same time I think nothing's going to happen if everyone keeps feeling that way.

AH: College students are generally apathetic and obnoxious anyway. But I think that one of the major reasons that Community Council is so unpopular is because they don't have any power to do much at all. I think that it's important for Community Council to directly relate to the students more. I think that that's important because I feel like people get hired onto Community Council and then you never hear from them again. You never find out what's going on, what they're deciding. They have Closed meetings now...

JIP: Again they're supposed to distribute the minutes of every meeting. It should be available to every student within a few days after...

AH: Then why doesn't the OMEN print it? Why don't we do it like the Pub Safety log?

JMP: Well I think if we could get them from Community Council, and Community council could get them for themselves, then maybe we could print them. But right now there's so much - they have to get them first, and you know it to, it's kind of a bitchy little point to make - but they're supposed to have money to print that up and to disseminate it. You should be able to go outside of the Community Council office and pick up a copy of the minutes from last week's meeting. There's no excuse for that not to be available. You should be able to go and get Ficom's minutes, CoCA's minutes, and COCD's minutes.

AH: Well, you have to understand that it's a vicious circle. Why should they print out minutes if nobody looks for them?

JMP: It's not a vicious circle when it's their rule!

AH: It's their rule but it becomes moot if nobody picks them up, and so I think that's why Community Council has been allowed to fall into disrepair.

JIP: I've been here four years and they've never - with maybe two exceptions - ever published minutes of the meetings. Ever. They're not publishing them! It's not an issue of people not wanting to pick them up. They're not meeting distribution.

JMP: Now we want them. Now we want them.

AH: Well nobody's ever wanted them for like 10 years!

RA: We don't know that though.

RC: Well here's the thing, I see Alli's point and Aaron's addendum to her point. I see the validity, veracity and the vitrioliness of the points. (Jeff just couldn't get a break...) I can think of like 10 different systems that we could have set I think what it would take is -

JMP: THUNDERDOME!

(Rebecca Just looks pained)

RC: Anyway, I can think of about 10 different systems that we could have and I think all of them would fail as this one has failed without an intense, from-the-ground-up commitment by everybody: trustees, faculty, staff, administration, students, that would redistribute power in a key way. That would get students interested and motivated again. But that would require a lot of discussion, a lot of agreements and a lot of commitment from all of these people to work on that kind of power redistribution and to really work hard on making a new form of government work. That takes a lot of energy. Energy I don't think the college is willing or able to commit, and so I think we kind of have to be either satisfied with trying to patch up Community Council as best as possible or waiting until somebody comes along - another President or a new Board of Trustees - some person or body that has the power and the will and the recognition that these changes need to happen. But it's gonna take so much time and energy for these changes to occur.

AH: I feel like they'd have a lot more energy if they sold cigarettes at the campus store.

RA: I don't think that's gonna happen with a new President or Board of Trustees. I think that it's gonna happen with students. I don't think someone in the administration is gonna say "hey, lets give more power to the student government, they don't have enough right now. I mean they might say that but I don't think they'd actually do anything to fix it. I think if the students could get more invested in having more power in government, but... First of all Comunity Council could show that they really wanted to do things, do good productive things with their time and money, that might help.

And if all the student body showed that they were really invested in having a government and they wanted to participate in it that might persuade the administration to give us more power. I think that's how it's gonna change.

AH: Well I don't think anything's really gonna change until it breaks down completely. It's like having a crappy car. You're not going to do anything because it's a crappy car.

RA: Well you depend on your car but we don't depend on Community Council. No one would notice if it broke down.

AH: Okay so it's like if you had a parrot, and it's a crappy parrot, but until it dies you're not going to get a new one!

JMP: Well we all depend on Community Council but nobody recognizes that right now because, okay, fine, Council is crappy but the house offices still get funded. If all of the sudden there was a freeze or something like that through Ficom where no money moved anywhere a lot of stuff that happens on this campus would end. All the publications wouldn't publish. The house offices would have no funding for programming. Like if it happened right before oh, I dont know, Halloween, Hampshire Halloween would go away because that's basically the one event that COCA lives for. You should be looking at Community Council as basically your life blood for the next four years here if you wanna do anything other than your work. And that's the problem with the lack of transparency - with only having four people making up quorum. Having

elections where there's no competition. You have a single nominee for representation. And one of the things that kind of ties into all of that is - sure students may not necessarily be the most proactive people on the whole, but when you have a whole first year class come in and they don't know, (because nobody told them when they got here) that there are school representatives. That you can run for Community Council in your first year. That you can change curriculum. That you can be an active participant in not just your own education, but the education of

people with similar interests as you. When that doesnt happen in the first year, you've already decided what your role in the school is gonna be. By the end of your first year you know where you

wanna live, you know who your friends are, what your interests are, and that's the track you're on. If that doesn't include being an active participant on Hampshire Campus, thats it, you're not gonna be one.

RC: And so many people make that decision, and it's the amazing 80, they're the ones who do 80 percent of what happens. You know, you'll see the same people on Community Council, on FICOM, as interns, as student group leaders, and it's a real shame because those people just burn out - they cant do everything that should be done. Each of those jobs can't be done with the kind of dedication and energy that they deserve and that could make a real difference because somebody who's an intern and the Ficom secretary and the signer for three different student groups can't do any of those job the way they should be done, and so all that disassociation leads to a watering down on so many levels.

JIP: And it's true that over the four years that I've been here students on the whole- I dont know if it's a new thing, if it has something to do with the first year plan, or if it has anything to do with admissions- are less interested in taking an active role in the future of the college. They wanna get here. They wanna spend their four

years here. They want to do their work. They want to come out with their circular Bachelor of the Arts degree and go on from there. And they don't feel any oness towards the people who come after them.

AH: Well, I'm sure that especially this class has their share of Student Presidents and Tresurers and Vice whathaveyou, but I think that (laughter) but they dont get advertised to at all, None of my years here, did I ever know that this stuff was open- and you know I like power, I like telling people what to do, I might have run for something had I known but all I do is walk by one morning in the library and I see people having tables and you know "Oh, Josiah, check" Because Josiah rocks. But I feel like Rebecca's completely right there should be some sort of thing set up where all of these people who are gonna be interns anyway and all this shit I think that thet should be advertised to. They should snap up eager young minds, suck the marrow from their bones and spit them out by their third year when they can get a new crop. What's wrong with that?

JIP: There are less people running for Community Council this year than there were my first year.

AH: Yeah but look at the people coming on the Omen. They're all like "I was the editor of my school paper, I was in this position of power." They were all in positions of power, they were all in positions of manaagement, and I'm not saying anything bad about the new kids, but I'm saying that that would really be up their alley, and not in a way that refers to my name.

RC: I was talking to student affairs about that issue- of first years coming that were editors of their high school paper, that were president of the Student Council, they were this that and the other thing, and they're coming in and I see that energy just, not being utilized. It's not being channeled. I mean if you have six editors of their high school paper that are coming to Hampshire, that's more than enough editors for us to have a *real* school newspaper. (Comments) People who are running Community Council, why shouldnt they be writing to student council members? All these kinds of interests and energies that people had in high school- which they might not want to continue, they might want to try something new in college- but why cant we have some way of taking that data at admissions and funneling

it through student affairs and the leadership center so that every student group gets a list of first years that have done things related to their interests in high school. And every student gets a list of student groups related to their interests.

JIP: Yeah it would be nice that if there was a guy that lives in Merrill that watches RAW every week, I got a little notice in my WWC mailbox that says. "Hey, this guy watches RAW every week!"

RC: Yeah, and seeing as Hampfest will probably be happening you know, next year, over Christmas, January term somewhere around there, and you have these meetings in the first week of school and like 30 kids will show up. You have them a month later and like youll get 3. The first month, the very first week, is the time .

AH: The first two weeks are imperative to any student group. Community Council included and theyre just throwing it away.

RA: It may be as simple as just doing orientation and being like, "Here are all the positions you can run for. Here are all the things students have the chance to be involved in. I mean, someof these things I'm only just finding out tonight at this talk. The things that students can do. It would make so much sense during Orientation, during all the other things that should happen during orientation.

JIP: I guess they kind of screwed up Orientation, to some extent from what it was when I went through orientation.

RC: Oh I dont think it's changed.

RA: Yeah doing it this year was exactly like the one I did my first year.

JIP: I just feel like, maybe it's the orientation leaders, but my orientation leaders were very clear on the stuff that you have mentioned

AH: That's because your Orientation leaders were Wilder and Benni.

RC: Yeah, its the orientation leader that makes that I think.

RA: But I dont think it should be like an orientation group related thing, it should be something that everyone has to do like, Academic orientation,

RC: I agree.

(Various comments about the OMEN, pot shots at Jeff, swamp ass, steel drum bands, and smoking.)



| Name / Mood | What's the best thing that could happen to you today? | What's the worst thing that could happen to you today? |
|--|---|--|
| Rob/I don't have a word to describe the mood I'm in. | I could get all my work done | I might have to stay late |
| CM/I'd like to be out of here | I could not get hit by a bus | I could be hit by a bus |
| Beth/happy but tired | my car could have a loose wire and not require expensive repairs | my transmission died |
| Wendy/apathetic | I could come up with a creative answer to your poll | that I could not come up with an interesting answer |
| Steve/chipper | pass my div 2 | not pass my div |
| Callie/anxious | I could fall in love | I could die |
| Nathan/purple | I could take a nap | my classes would start grading me |
| Tim/chill | finish the album | get hit in the head by another truck |
| Emma/passive | I could win some money | lose a leg |
| Jeanine/queasy | for the sun to come out | for me to get full-blown sick |
| Ellen/tired | go home and find the kitchen clean | remember another bill that I haven't paid in town |
| Frank (the world) | to receive an amount of money which would make me financially independent for the rest of my life | to find out a loved one was sick |
| Padellaro/anxious | | |
| CJ/exhilarated | I could win the lottery | I don't want to say 'cause then it will happen. |
| George/hungry | make a new friend | break a bone |
| Jen Jackson/I'm in the transition mood | my boyfriend could take me out to dinner | it already happened-I didn't find one of my evaluations in my central records folder and I have to pass my div 2 Wednesday |
| Pearl/a little bit nostalgic | if could finish my div 3 today that would be cool | if I quit smoking |
| Grace/noncommittal | I could get a package in the mail | I could lose my keys |
| Peter/awful | Well, I'm sick so if my fever went away... | if my fever got worse which would involve hallucinations |
| Meara/awful | I get kidnapped and taken to Cape Cod | I get arrested 'cause I didn't pay a ticket for illegal camping |
| Tati/post-class dazed and stressed | I could get this job I want | I could check my bank acct and be broke |
| Rob/pensive | speak with the girl I love | not get anything done |
| Alex/six (on a scale 1-10) | I could meet Bill Clinton and he would announce he will be emperor | I could become crippled |
| Jessica/okay | I could keep my sanity | Being run over by a bicycle |
| Simone/plissed off | my cough could go away | I'm here in western MA, aren't I? |
| Lauren/sleepy and getting better from feeling feverish all weekend | somebody could give me a box of cookies | someone in the mod sets off a fire alarm while I'm sleeping |
| Carlyn/I'm in a dancin' mood | for Lauri to love me | I could get eaten alive by a giant whale from Alaska |
| Justin/cautiously ambitious | if I found \$100 I'd be pretty happy | if I did my div 3 paperwork wrong today |
| Antonius/giddy | I could get paid | I could drown while swimming in the pool or something |

Name / Mood What's the best thing What's the worst thing
that could happen to you today?

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Laurin/looking forward to my life | finding out that one or more of my classes were cancelled for tomorrow or, my reading could finish itself | if my friend who is coming to visit gets a flat tire and comes in at midnight waking me up and making me worry |
| Von/juvenile | someone could hit on me | plane could crash into my mod and kill everyone leaving me crippled in the aftermath |
| Nat/tired, cranky | I could win the lotto | my check could bounce for my car insurance |
| Feliks/indifferent | my tummyache could go away | I could lose myself in my pants because of my tummyache. |
| Suzanna/sugar-oriented | finding a bag of money | not finding a bag of money |
| James/tiredly amused | I could become a god | I could find out none of my div 1s went through |
| Mark/curious optimism | I could be given a delicious lowfat brownie that doesn't let me down in the flavor department | the juggernaut that is modern television continues churning forward as is |
| Madeleine/feel like shit | I could not feel sick anymore and I could get to bed on time | I could go home and the mold in my mod is considerably worse than it was this morning |
| Nathan/fucked up | I could wake up and get a pack of cigarettes | I could not get cigarettes forever |
| Alliq/somewhat lightheaded | my div 3 chair called and decided to meet with me and make my life better | if, like in my dream last night, my div chair turned into Sue Darlington |
| Rosa/anticipatory | seeing a great show | I don't know. I don't feel like thinking of something bad |
| Stephanie/I'm in a good mood | that this show doesn't suck | I feel like I'm being redundant |
| Sabeena/I'm in a really good mood. I'm a little stressed out but I'm in a good mood | Well there's two things: It could be a really good show and I could call this girl and she would be interested in coming up this weekend | show could be bad |
| Carol/I'm drowsy but feeling sassy in anticipation of wicked kick-ass music | my boyfriend will shave off his handlebar mustache and we'll have S&M sex later | I think this year's been bad enough. I could go home and my apartment could have burned down, you know? So, I guess if my boyfriend could leave the handlebar mustache and we could not have S&M sex later... |
| Rebecca/I'm sick | I could stop feeling sick | once again, I could fail to go to bed before 3 am |
| Caitlin/I'm pretty tired but yet I'm wired, kinda damp feeling | I could do all my reading and not fight with anyone | if all my family and friends would die |
| Alexandria/content | I could have really good sex | I could find out someone I love is dead |
| Shaun/I'm getting the belated triumphant return feel | I don't know. videos to go, 5 movies 5 days? there's always that get laid factor | I could lose my hooded sweatshirt, which would be the worst thing ever |

Classic

DEATH TO THE EXTREMIST XXII

by M. Zole

www.zole.org

THIS ISSUE OF
COSMO (WHICH
I AM READING)
HAS A QUIZ.

1

2

1. If you could be any
kind of firearm, what
would you be?

1

2

- a) H&K MP5
- b) Beretta 92F
- c) AK-47
- d) Colt Anaconda

1

2

- e) Ruger Mini-14
- f) Glock 19
- g) H&K MSG90
- h) Desert Eagle

1

2

- i) FAMAS
- j) Luger Carbine 7.65
- k) Winchester 1887
- l) Smith & Wesson .357

1

2

- m) Thompson M1A1
- n) Remington 870
- o) BFG 2000
- p) Calico M-900S Carbine

1

2

- q) Uzi SMG
- r) Peanut butter and
jelly sandwich
- s) Commodore 64

1

2

I'LL GO WITH "G".
IT SAYS YOU ARE
AN EXTROVERT.

1

2

by: Michael Zole